

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Council Approves Koretz, Price Ordinance Codifying Legal Retail Cannabis Business Emblem Program

June 29, 2022, Los Angeles, CA – Today, Los Angeles City Council approved an Ordinance codifying a cannabis retail emblem program spearheaded by Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Curren Price and seconded by Marqueece Harris-Dawson. The Program provides for the issuance of an Emblem Placard to licensed retail cannabis businesses that will serve as notice to the public and enforcement agencies that the business is licensed, has been inspected by the LA County Department of Public Health and is in compliance with all applicable public health laws and regulations. With today’s approval the program will launch later this year.

The Program is intended to protect consumers from the detrimental effects created by the sale of untested and unregulated cannabis products by unlicensed cannabis businesses. The program would allow licensed retail businesses to apply for an emblem, obtain the requisite inspection, and place the emblem on the store’s premises so that it is visible to the public from the exterior of the store, as well as provide and make health-related information accessible to consumers. It also would help law enforcement agencies in enforcing City cannabis laws.

“Unfortunately, unlicensed commercial cannabis activity continues to undermine the legal commercial cannabis industry and threaten the health and safety of Los Angeles residents,” said **Councilmember Paul Koretz**. “I have been working on getting this emblem program designed and implemented for the past few years and I’m incredibly grateful for the Department of Cannabis Regulation’s steadfast work. Angelenos are too often left to their own devices to figure out if a cannabis product is safe - whether it’s been tainted, contaminated or mislabeled. This program will help remedy that and give consumers the information needed to make safe and healthy decisions when buying cannabis products.”

“Establishing an Emblem Program will allow patrons to make an informed choice of where they want to shop and spend their hard earned money,” said **Councilmember Curren Price** who co-presented the legislation. “This initiative will provide a comfort level that they’re at a businesses that is properly regulated and inspected by the City. Furthermore, such a program will inform customers of safe locations to shop for legal cannabis.”

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Public Health commends and thanks the City of Los Angeles for implementing the Los Angeles County Cannabis Compliance and Enforcement Program (CCEP),” said **Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health**. “The adoption of our program by the largest city in the county ensures that the many in our community, both cannabis employees and consumers, are afforded the maximum safety measures prescribed by our Public Health inspection process.”

The CCEP ensures that basic construction and equipment requirements are met at each cannabis facility prior to issuing a Public Health Permit. Program staff then conduct two annual inspections to ensure that these facilities follow the State regulations and local ordinances.

“DCR appreciates the City Council’s expediency in adopting these important ordinances that will ensure our licensed operators meet all public health standards,” said **Michelle Garakian, Interim Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR)**. “We look forward to the implementation of the emblem program in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to protect the health of consumers, employees and the community.”

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